

AAUW Howard County Branch NEWSLETTER



OUR MISSION: *To advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.*

APRIL 2024

Hello Friends and Members,

Spring has finally arrived along with the daffodils and robins, but temperatures can still be a bit chilly in the morning. I hope you have had the opportunity to get outside in the sunshine when the clouds dissipate and have some fun in the fresh air.

I am pleased to welcome two new members to our branch: Samara Galvao and Kathy Silks. (Learn more about them on page 7.) Let's reach out and make them feel at home when you see them at meetings and in special interest groups.

We had a very successful Girl Power event on March 8th where we spoke to several dozen girls about the upcoming Solar Eclipse and what it's like to be an astrophysicist (see p 3.) Our scholarship efforts with Howard Community College are right on target including those for the National College Conference for Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL- see pp. 3-4) thanks to Cindy Graham who has been busy as a bee getting everything done.

April 11th is our next branch meeting at 2 pm that, in keeping with tradition, will feature a diversity program, *The Immigration Experience*, followed by a Hispanic dinner (see pp. 1, 8). Our very own, Peggy Wong, will be one of the featured speakers, so I hope you can listen and reconnect with her. I look forward to seeing you there!

April 20th is the AAUW Maryland Annual Spring Convention that will be held in Rockville this year. We will have two members, Diane Willen and Phyllis Cook, giving brief presentations on women who have made significant impacts on the world. See page 5 to sign up! Beth Hayden bhayden@aol.com

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

April 3 – Voting on Open Membership begins; watch for email from vote@simplyvoting.com

April 11 – 2:30 PM; Branch Meeting; Marvin Thomas Room; E. Columbia Library

April 11 – 5:00 PM; Adventures in Dining; La Palapa Too, Montpelier, Laurel

April 20 – AAUW Maryland Annual State Convention, Ingleside at King Farm, Rockville

April Program

The Immigration Experience

April 11 (Thursday) 2:30 PM

Marvin Thomas Room, East Columbia Library

The Immigration Experience

We are deluged daily with pictures of immigrants from many countries entering our country. We know their experiences are as varied as their fingerprints. What do we know about the immigrants who have come to Maryland? What help do they need once they get here? What challenges do they face?

To tell us more about this, we have presenters from the *Luminus Network for New Americans*, a local organization that has assisted immigrants from more than 90 countries with services ranging from legal counseling with immigration issues, healthcare, and employment assistance. They assist more than 3,000 people per year and have been a resource to Central MD for over 40 years. They will not only present information about their services, but also speak as immigrants themselves and about their clients' needs and experiences.

We will also have our own Peggy Wong speak about her extensive experience working for the federal government in the arena of immigration law and policy. Peggy will also share a bit about her own family's experience coming to the US from Korea.

A little about our speakers:

Jocelyn Lobos Segura, who is a Guatemalan American, works at Luminus as a case manager, working with recent immigrants to meet their many social support needs. She is a 2019 graduate of George Washington University. She has prior experience working in sexual assault, domestic violence and victim services.

Madiha Rahini is an Afghan native who immigrated to the US in 2021 after the fall of Afghanistan. She comes from a family of professionals and holds a degree in civil engineering. She currently works as a financial assistant at Luminus.

Peggy Wong, who has been a member of our AAUW branch for many years, spent her entire career in immigration services. She retired after 27 years at the legacy Immigration and Naturalization Service as Chief Inspector of the Inspections Division at Headquarters of INS in Washington DC. She was the first female and person of color in that division.

This promises to be an illuminating discussion, from a variety of perspectives that helps our branch determine local challenges that we can have an impact upon. Please come and bring a friend!

Susan Hailman, Program VP (443) 994-5453, shailman@comcast.net

Education – Cindy Graham, VP

Girl Power

AAUW Howard County Branch joined other area educational and non-profit organizations at Girl Power on Sunday, March 3 from 2 pm until 5 pm. The one-day STEM Expo is held on the Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) campus each spring to give elementary and middle-school students an opportunity to explore careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

This year, our table “Reach for the Stars” featured conversations with Howard County Branch member Sethanne Howard, PhD Astrophysicist, and information about safe watching of the Solar Eclipse which will pass over Columbia on April 8, 2024, along with the popular self-inflating balloons.

Education Committee members, Diane Willen, Debbie Munley, Suzanne Soules, Beth Hayden and Diane Roca helped design the table and assisted Sethanne during the event.



Showing Girl Power attendees materials about the solar eclipse. On the left, Suzanne Soules, and on the right, Cindy Graham.

NCCWSL Scholarships

We have extended the deadline for application for NCCWSL scholarships until midnight Tuesday, April 9. HCC faculty advisors for two student groups are continuing to encourage their students to apply for this scholarship. We have also reached out to members to encourage their family members and friends to apply, and Beth Hayden has reached out to two-year colleges in nearby counties that don't have AAUW branches.

These scholarships pay 100% of the cost, including housing and four meals, to attend the conference which will be held at the University of Maryland College Park campus May 30 – June 1. For more information about our scholarships visit <https://howardcounty-md.aauw.net/education-and-scholarships/> where you will find links to information about the conference and how to apply for a scholarship.



HCC Career Links Scholarships

The current balance in the Howard Community College Foundation AAUW – Howard County Branch Scholarship Account is \$6,050. The Board approved funding for four \$1,000 scholarships for the school year 2024-2025. Recipients will be notified of their scholarship in May and funds will be paid by the Foundation directly to each recipient's account at the beginning of the Fall and Spring Semesters.

The scholarships will be awarded to Career Links Students and administered by the HCC Financial Aid Department. Career Links is a formal, structured program that provides financial assistance, mentorship, peer support and career counselling to single parents, single pregnant women, and displaced homemakers. Watch this [video](#) to see how Career Links has helped young women achieve their goals.



[This picture is a hot link to a video about Career Links.]

These women in the video are actual Career Links students but are not recipients of an AAUW Scholarship.

Cindy Graham, *Education VP*, cugraham@gmail.com (214) 912-5656

AAUW MARYLAND STATE CONVENTION APRIL 20



REGISTER NOW! Join your fellow branch members – carpools will be arranged.

**2024 AAUW MARYLAND SPRING
CONVENTION**

SATURDAY, APRIL 20 9 am – 4 pm

Cultural Arts Center of Ingleside at King Farm
701 King Farm Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20850

Hosted by Kensington-Rockville Branch

Know Your Maryland Public Policies – Be an Educated Voter!

Morning presentation topics:

- 1) How Ranked Choice Voting can work to even the playing field in local elections;
- 2) Learn about the status of the Equal Rights Amendment;
- 3) An update on the results of the bills that AAUW Maryland and MLAW support from the concluded Maryland General Assembly;
- 4) Learn about the status of the Maryland Blueprint for Education.

Noontime program: Each branch is invited to select an outstanding woman, current or historic, and present briefly about her during the lunch break.

Afternoon session: Board Meeting

Our presenters at the noontime program are Phyllis Cook speaking about Dolly Parton and Diane Willen speaking about Margaret Sanger.

Registration information and link are [here](#) and in the Spring issue of the *Marylander*.

You can also use this link to register online through Eventbrite.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aauw-maryland-2024-spring-convention-tickets-832129430527?aff=oddtcreator>

AAUW Members Voting on Open Membership

This spring, AAUW members will vote on the long-standing membership requirement of a college degree to join AAUW. The AAUW Board of Directors supports open membership and encourages civil and respectful dialogue on this issue. The link below will take you to a document with questions and answers about the topic. Take a few minutes to read it; you will gain information that will help you understand the issue and make an informed vote.

<https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2024/01/2024-Open-Membership-Talking-Points-and-Questions.pdf>

Voting will be online. It opens on Wednesday, April 3, and closes on May 15.

AAUW is utilizing an independent, third-party voting system for this year's vote. Most members will receive emails from vote@simplyvoting.com with their unique Elector ID and Password to vote. Look for a message in your Inbox on April 3.

All members without an email address on file will receive a paper ballot by mail.

Membership Suzanne Soules, VP

Please welcome two new members to our Branch.

- This is what Samara said about herself:

My name is Samara Galvao, and I am an Applications Development Manager. I was born and raised in Brazil. I moved to the US in 2006. I graduated from the University of District of Columbia with a B.S. and M.S. in Computer Science. I am currently working for a clinical research organization that provides scientific services in product discovery and development. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, working out, traveling, and sampling different culinary arts.

- Likewise, here is what Kathy Silks sent as her introduction:

Kathy McKean Silks is a retired communications/marketing executive and corporate spokesperson. A graduate of Albright College (with a BA in Social Welfare), she is a 45-year member of AAUW Harrisburg (PA) and served in numerous branch board positions (including president and co-president). She is also a past president of the Pennsylvania Public Relations Society, the Dauphin County Library System board of trustees, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Capital Region. A “biblioholic” since early childhood, Kathy has many passions, including time spent with friends, lifelong education, dining out, the Orioles, films, writing, travel, nature, music, and career mentoring. She grew up in Catonsville and is a new resident of Ellicott City.

We are very happy to have these new members and look forward to getting to know them better.

Suzanne Soules, Membership VP, Suzanne.soules@gmail.com (410) 872-8603

LUNCH BUNCH

Join us on Thursday, April 25, for Lunch Bunch. 11:30 am @ Nordstrom Cafe, Columbia Mall. No RSVP needed. Hope to see you there!
Caroline Tunison
301-346-1750

ADVENTURES IN DINING

We will be dining at La Palapa Too, 7500 Montpelier D, Laurel, MD on Thursday, April 11th at 5:00 pm. This will be following our Diversity branch meeting which is being held at the East Columbia Library 2:30 – 4:00 pm. This will give us plenty of time to get to the restaurant. Please RSVP to me by April 4th if you are able to attend as I will need to make reservations for our group. Hope to see you at the meeting and for dinner after!!
Carol Phelps
carolmcauliffe@verizon.net
443-878-2848

GREAT DECISIONS

The Great Decisions Discussion Group will meet Tuesday, April 16, at 2:00 PM at Brightview Senior Living. The address is 6670 Martin Road in Columbia.

We will discuss “*Technology Denial and Sino-American Rivalry.*” Come a little early to find a parking place. You may need to park on the street because many places in the lot are designated for Residents.
Contact: Diane Roca
dbroca@comcast.net
443-255-1628

Interest Groups

AAUW READERS

All meetings will take place at the East Columbia Library in the 50+ Center. Location will now be the ***new East Columbia 50 Plus Center*** located in a separate building adjacent to the library.

Starting time is 10:30 a.m. followed by an optional lunch at a nearby restaurant. All Branch members are welcome. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please let Debbie Munley know via email
debbiemunley@verizon.net.

Contacts: Jean Salkeld (410) 992-4198
jesalkeld@gmail.com and
Debbie Munley
debbiemunley@verizon.net
(301) 776-7388

May 16, 2024 *The Mayfair Bookshop*
by Eliza Knight Historical Fiction

July 18, 2024 *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See
Historical Fiction

2024-2025 AAUW Howard County Branch Officers

President: Beth Hayden (410)-707-2018

First Vice President: Position open

Financial Officer: Bea Dane (410) 299-8403

Vice President, Programs: Susan Hailman
(443) 994-5453, shailman@comcast.net

Vice President, Philanthropy: Position open

Co-Vice Presidents, Meetings/Social: Carol Phelps
(443) 878-2848; and Bobbie Brooks (443) 545-5642

Secretary: Jean Parr (410) 381-6351;

Alt: Bobbie Brooks (240)-888-5231.

Vice President, Education: Cindy Graham
(214) 912-5656

Vice President, Public Policy: Position open

Vice President, Membership and Diversity:

Suzanne Soules (410) 872-8603

Vice President, Communications:

Diane Roca (410) 964-3523

Website Manager: Position open

Adventures in Dining: Carol Phelps (410) 381-7076

AAUW Readers: Jean Salkeld (410) 992-4198 and

Debbie Munley (301) 776-7388

Great Decisions: Diane Roca (410) 964-3523

Lunch Bunch: Caroline Tunison (301) 346-1750

2024 Branch Calendar

Planned events are tentative and will be confirmed closer to the date.

APRIL

- 4 — Board Meeting; 2 pm; Central Library Branch; College Conference Room
- 5 — Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
- 11 - Branch Meeting – 2 pm; The Immigration Experience; Speakers: Luminus Network for New Americans; AAUW HoCo member Peggy Wong; Marvin Thomas Room at E. Columbia Library; followed by Adventures in Dining at La Palapa Too Grill and Cantina
- 11 – Adventures in Dining; 5 pm La Palapa Too; Laurel
- 16 — Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior Living
- 20 — AAUW Maryland Annual State Convention; Ingleside at Kings Farm, Rockville, 9 am – 4 pm
- 25 – Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

MAY

- 3 — Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
- 7 — Adventures in Dining; Details TBD
- 9 — Board Meeting, if needed; 2 pm; location TBD
- 14 — Branch Meeting, Potluck, New Officers; Kittleman Room at Howard Community College
- 16 – AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+ Center East Columbia Library
- 21 - Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior Living
- 30 – Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café
- May 31-June 1 — NCCWSL, U of MD, College Park, MD; Theme: *Empowering Equity*; AAUW Maryland Woman of Distinction featured

JUNE

- 4 — Adventures in Dining; Details TBD
- 7 — Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
- 18 — Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior Living
- 27 — Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

JULY

- 2 — Adventures in Dining; Details TBD
- 5 — Help at HoCo Food Bank; 10 am to 12 pm; Columbia
- 16 – Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior Living
- 18 – AAUW Readers; 10:30 am; 50+ Center, East Columbia Library
- 20 - AAUW MD Summer Conference; Maryland Non-Profits Headquarters, Baltimore (Hampden)
- 25 — Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

AUGUST

20 --- Great Decisions; 2 pm; Brightview Senior Living

29 — Lunch Bunch; 11:30 am; Nordstrom Café

FALL

September 27-29 --- AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference; Glen Allen, VA

